Ministry and also indicating whether there is a good scope for an OLEFIN Complex in this State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) and (c) Yes, Sir. A communication was received from the Chief Minister of Rajasthan in June, 90 for setting up an Office Complex in Rajasthan based on gas from HBJ pipeline.

Establishment of Petro-Chemical Complexes is considered based on demand/supply position of petrochemical products, availability of feedstock and other techno economic aspects.

In view of the above considerations, the proposal for olefin Complex in Rajasthan was not considered feasible.

(b) Yes, Sir, depending on the location and demand.

Restriction on Export of Molasses

1958. SHRI P. UPENDRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have put restrictions on the export of molasses resulting in the loss of valuable foreign exchange; and

(b) what are the reasons for placing such curbs, when there is surplus stock of molasses in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) and (b) Export of Molasses is permissible subject to provisions of Molasses Control Order. While giving approvals for export outside, care is taken by Molasses Controllers to ensure that domestic requirements within the State and other deficit States are met.

Overcharging by drugs companies

1959. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred question 2059 given in Rajya Sabha on 12th December, 1991 and state:

(a) what are the details regarding company, product, date and extent of overcharging of prices fixed by Government which were brought to the notice of his Ministry under DPCO, 1979;

(b) whether it is a fact that details furnished in the Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question 670 answered on 28th November, 1991 are incomplete and that only 4 cases are in courts;

(c) in how many cases companies have been let off after prima facie notices;

(d) whether it is a fact that several cases were not pursued as the producers settled their claims with the connivence of bureaucrats of his Ministry; and

(e) what is the present position in each case and when was the last reminder issued and why criminal case have not been filed against any producer so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) and (b) Requisite details were given in annexure to reply to Unstarred Question No. 6655 answered on 8th April, 1992.

(c) The question of any company being let off does not arise and all efforts are being made to effect the recoveries, as legally permissible, as soon as possible.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) The process of determination of the final liabilities of the companies in the background of the Supreme Court Judgement is still in progress. In a number of cases the companies have already been informed that if they do not discharge their liabilities, the Government will be left with no alternative but to make recovery as arrears of land revenue, through the Collector concerned, alongwith interest from the date of default.

Assessment of Liability of M/s. Hoechst

1960. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) in what matter and on what basis the liability of M/s Hoechst was assessed at Rs. 3.19 crores upto August, 1987 by the Special Team by reducing Rs. 88 crores worth of liability to Rs. 3.19 crores;

(b) whether it is a fact that besides set off it is falsification of figures which

resulted in substantial reduction of liability;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether this falsification of figures was done by the members of the Special Team based on the understanding with the company; and

(e) what are the details in this regard and what steps have been taken to fix the responsibility?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) to (e) The tentative liability of M/s Hoechst was assessed at Rs. 3.12 crores up-to August, 1987 by the Special Team. After receipt of a number of complaints alleging acts of ommision and commission on the part of the Special Team, the tentative liability for this period was revised to Rs. 77.81 crores. These complaints were regarding inaccurate reckoning of the company's bulk drug prices in the computation of the liabilities, grant of unauthorised and inadimissible set offs in the quantum of production and sales and the sale value of various drugs and formulations etc. The question of fixing the responsibilities on any one in this regard would arise only after the liabilities are finally determined.

Information on imported items

1961. SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 3039 given in Rajya Sabha on 19th Dec., 1991 and state:

(a) whether information given on the imported items used for the production of 6—APA is misleading;

(b) what is the exact custom duty on each of the imported item used for the production of Ampicillion Trihydrate;

(c) what is the import content at CIF cost based on which he price was revised recently;

(d) whethed it is a fact that CIF import price of the drug is only $ 35 per kg and the local producers are overinvoicing the imports of inputs as a result of which the import content in the domestic production is higher; and

(e) what steps have been taken to prevent such a situation where common man is paying a high price and more foreign exchange is going out?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) No, Sir. In reply to part (a) of Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 3093 asking "whether it is a fact that 6—APA is also used for the production of Ampicillin Trihydrate and inputs used for its production are also allowed for import with duty concession", the answer was given in affirmative. It may be elaborated here that for the production of 6—APA, Penicillin G. Potassium First Crystals is the starting material. This is produced indigenously. In earlier Import Policy, it was in Limited Permissible List (App. 2B) and in the current EXIM Policy it is in the Negative List. However, due to insufficient production, its imports are permitted at concesional duty to meet the shortfall and such import is linked with the lifting of indigenously produced material as per the policy in this regard.

(b) At present the customs duty concession is available on Dimethyl Dichloro Silane @ 95 per cent and D(—) phenyl Glycin Base @ 25 per cent for the production of Ampicillin Trihydrate. For other imported items used for the production of Ampicillin Trihydrate the customs duty is leviable at normal prevailing rates.

(c) the contents of imported materials of c.i.f. price is around 40 per cent in the total cost of raw material.

(d) and (e) The import price of bulk drugs is not being monitored by this Ministry and the reports of instances of over invoicing on imports of inputs has not come to the notice of this Department.